

The Hiccups

by Phyllis J. Perry

"I wish these silly hiccups would stop," Laurie complained to her mother as they were clearing the dinner table.

"They will go away soon," her mother said.

But the hiccups did not go away. Laurie watched a TV show. Then she tried reading a book. But she hiccupped and hiccupped and hiccupped. Finally Laurie went to find her mother. "Can you do something to make these hiccups go away?" she asked.

"A drink of water might help," Mother suggested.

Laurie drank a glass of water and waited. Has it worked? she wondered. Are my hiccups gone? Suddenly, out it came—Hiccup!

When Laurie's friend, Danny, came over to play, Laurie said, "Hi, Dan—"

Hiccup! "Want to get rid of those hiccups?" asked Danny.

"Sure!" said Laurie. "But how?"

"Stand on your head," Danny said. "That will stop the hiccups every time."

Laurie looked doubtful. "How does it work?" she asked.

"I don't know," said Danny. "Maybe the hiccups get mixed up and cannot find their way out."

"I will try it," Laurie agreed. She moved over against the bedroom wall so she could lean her feet against it. As she carefully stood on her head, out came another hiccup.

"It is not working," Laurie said.

"Well, it takes a little time," Danny said as he walked over to a chair and sat down. Minutes passed— but the hiccups continued. "It is taking a little longer than I thought," Danny said.

Meanwhile, the hiccups kept coming.

Finally Danny said, "I guess I will go home. Good luck."

After Danny left, Father came in and found his upside-down daughter. "What are you doing?" he asked.

Laurie fell into a heap on the floor. "I am trying to get rid of my hiccups," she told him. "But nothing works." Hiccup!

"Try blowing into a paper bag," Father suggested. "That is supposed to be a good cure."

Laurie ran to get a bag. Her father showed her how to fold the edges back and gather in the top so that she could blow it up like a balloon.

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As Laurie blew, the bag puffed up bigger and bigger. Suddenly her father popped the bag between his hands. It made a loud BANG!

Father looked down at a surprised Laurie. "Did I scare your hiccups away?" he asked.

Hiccup! went Laurie.

That night, Laurie hiccupped in the bathtub. She hiccupped when she combed her hair, and she hiccupped while she brushed her teeth.

When Mother came to tuck her in, Laurie hiccupped so hard that the bed bounced. Mother turned off the light, and Laurie snuggled down into her pillow and waited for the next hiccup.

She waited and waited. Laurie could hear the TV downstairs. She could hear traffic noises and a dog barking up the street. All this she heard, but do you know what Laurie did not hear? She did not hear one single hiccup!

As Laurie fell asleep, she smiled. Her hiccups had gone the same way that they had come—all by themselves!



Laurie hiccupped so hard that the bed bounced!

<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.3.1.7.2 Form A</p>
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Directions: Read the passage and choose the correct answer.

1. Why did the author MOST LIKELY write “The Hiccups”?
 - A. to tell readers how you get hiccups
 - B. to teach readers how to get rid of hiccups
 - C. to entertain readers with a story about hiccups
 - D. to explain why people cannot get rid of hiccups

2. With which statement would the author of “The Hiccups” MOST LIKELY agree?
 - A. Hiccups may never go away.
 - B. Hiccups can make you sick.
 - C. Hiccups are fun to have for a while.
 - D. Hiccups come and go by themselves.

3. Why does the author include several ways to get rid of the hiccups?
 - A. to explain why hiccups will not go away
 - B. to make readers aware of how hiccups end
 - C. to tell readers to use a paper bag to stop hiccups
 - D. to amuse readers with Laurie’s tries to stop the hiccups

4. The author includes the word “Hiccup!” after each of Laurie’s tries to get rid of the hiccups to show
 - A. what Laurie’s hiccups sounded like.
 - B. how loud Laurie’s hiccups sounded.
 - C. that Laurie’s hiccups did not go away.
 - D. Laurie was not serious about getting rid of her hiccups.

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ANSWER KEY

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- C. to entertain readers with a story about hiccups**
- D. to explain why people cannot get rid of hiccups

Item #	Answer
1.	C
2.	D
3.	D
4.	C

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